



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08386.0004-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Dennis W. WAHR et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3731
)	
Application No.: 09/870,813)	Examiner: Gary Jackson
)	
Filed: June 1, 2001)	
)	
For: CLOSURE DEVICES, RELATED)	Confirmation No.: 1270
DELIVERY METHODS AND)	
TOOLS, AND RELATED)	
METHODS OF USE)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

On April 1, 2005, Applicants' representative conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner (Mr. Gary Jackson). Applicants wish to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for granting that interview. Applicants file this Statement which sets forth the substance of the interview in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 713.04, ed. 8, rev. 1 (Feb. 2003).

During the April 1, 2005 interview, Applicants' representative requested that the Examiner cancel all rejected and objected to claims to permit allowed claims 70-79, 81, and 86-90 to proceed to issue. Applicants' representative indicated that the cancellation of rejected claims was not an indication that Applicants agreed with the rejections, and that those canceled claims would be pursued in a continuation application. As reflected

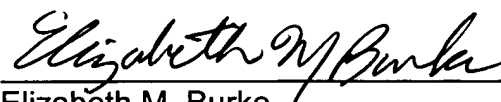
in the Interview Summary mailed with the Notice of Allowance dated April 19, 2005, the Examiner agreed to cancel claims 1-9, 11-20, 24, 25, 27-49, 51-55, and 92-135, each of which was either rejected or objected to in the Office Action dated January 12, 2005, by an Examiner's Amendment.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this statement and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 19, 2005

By: 
Elizabeth M. Burke
Reg. No. 38,758



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Sir:

COMMENTS REGARDING STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The Notice of Allowability received in this application, dated April 19, 2005, included an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. In the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, the Examiner made characterizations and assertions about the claims and the related art.

Although Applicants agree with the Examiner's ultimate conclusion that the claims are patentable, Applicants do not necessarily agree that the characterizations and assertions contained in the statement apply to each of the claims in the application.

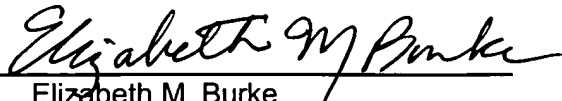
Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable because the prior art fails to suggest or otherwise disclose the various respective combinations present in each of the claims, not only the combination suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the statement of reasons for allowance.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of these comments, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 19, 2005

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Attorney Docket No. 08386.0004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Dennis W. WAHR et al.) **Notice of Allowance Dated: 4/19/05**
Application No.: 09/870,813) Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed: June 1, 2001) Examiner: G. Jackson
For: CLOSURE DEVICES,) Confirmation No.: 1270
RELATED DELIVERY)
METHODS AND TOOLS, AND)
RELATED METHODS OF USE)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

SUBMISSION OF REPLACEMENT DRAWINGS

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace the drawings in the above-identified application with the 24 drawings filed herewith (Figures 1-11, 11A-11C, and 12-21). If the replacement drawings for any reason are not in full compliance with the pertinent statutes and regulations, please so advise the undersigned.

If any fees are necessary for the submission of these formal drawings, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 19, 2005

By: Elizabeth M. Burke
Elizabeth M. Burke
Reg. No. 38,758